CROYDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY:

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD 23 April 2019

President **Graham Harker** opened the meeting at 19.30 hours and welcomed the 14 members present. He introduced Croydon Philatelic Society member **Richard Berry** and invited him to give his display on the **1937 Coronation.**

Richard collected as a child and came back to collecting some years later. Looking through his childhood collection he discovered two 1937 covers with Coronation stamps and they inspired him to develop the 1937 Coronation collection. Richard began with the death of King George V and the short reign and abdication of King Edward VIII. The stamps for the Coronation were introduced which included specimens of the British Empire Omnibus issues, a detailed study of the single 1½d stamp issued by Great Britain, including many varieties as well as issues from Nauru, Papua and New Guinea. Australia did not issue special stamps to mark the occasion, but the high value 'Robes' definitive issue was issued in the following year 1938. Also a detailed study of the relatively long set issued by Newfoundland was on show.

There were many items of ephemera from events related to the Coronation, including a leaflet concerning a Coronation Cruise and material about the Spithead Review. The stamps included a study of the issues for New Zealand and its Dependencies, and covers were displayed from Pitcairn Island, Western Samoa and the Mandated Territory of Palestine. Richard included countries of Southern Africa, with examples of the issues of South-West Africa, South Africa and Southern Rhodesia.

The display included proofs, imperfs. full sheets, plate numbers and Ceylon booklets which were the only booklets issued in all the countries of the Commonwealth to

commemorate the event. In addition there were many of the stamp varieties that are illustrated in the reference book by Douglas Armstrong of the Coronation issues.

The display closed with a range of relevant Cinderellas, some special covers prepared for the occasion and other related items including crash covers and some Australasian First Flight covers. Related ephemera was displayed throughout including actual tickets for seats in Westminster Abbey on the day of the Coronation and official letters.

President **Graham Harker** gave the vote of thanks, commenting on the great variety of the material including plate numbers, specimens and ephemera. Richard demonstrated extensive knowledge of the topic as a result of a great deal of research. A truly delightful evening which all the members appreciated. The meeting closed at 21.30 hours.

24.04.2019
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Brian Asquith & Graham Harker